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FRANK FRETTAG,
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THAT SWASHBUCKLER BOOGEY VILAIN ARMY.

It is almost remarkable to note what a change of heart has come over some of those high dignitaries in the regular army who were led out of seeming sympathy for the political fortunes of Teddy the Nosey to positively sanction his idea of a so-called first reserve army. They have decided to cover and the dental trench with startling celerity and dispatch.

There seems to be more knowledge about this so-called "army" than there was last week when Teddy the Nosey in his usual bombastic way announced that it was to be organized as a rebuke to President Wilson and his war department.

Bright idea, isn't it? Taking into account nicely the inability of incapacity of the federal authorities to take stock of its military resources.

Organizing a private army in this country is a suspicious undertaking. No suspicion that the federal government will never permit it.

In his message to congress last December President Wilson stated explicitly that it is not the policy of this government, and everybody knows that it is not the policy of this administration, to maintain a large standing army, "not yet a reserve army." That is why the president appealed to the states to strengthen their state militia organizations.

Yet Roosevelt's proposal to raise a reserve army, and the preliminary reports do not indicate that it is to be in any way sympathetically connected with the war department or the regular army. Of course nobody can have the right to organize an armed force in this country without the express sanction of the president.

There is no place in our scheme of Republican government for such an army as that proposed by the swash buckling colossus of Sagamore Hill. It will be surprising if the president does not summarily set his foot down upon this project and declare that we have no need of political armies of rough riders and roughnecks outside of the regular military organizations of nation and state.

In the meantime it is just as well for the government of states to recognize that the Hugo spirit is rampant, and that it will be wise to remove the prop that uphold it. In order to do that the states must provide liberally for the state militia. If they do not do that the bloodthirsty political colonels are going to be able to intrude themselves upon us in a most threatening and ungentlemanly way.

THEY WONDER WHY THEY FOUGHT.

The common people—the men who are doing the actual fighting and dying in the Old World continue to act much like human beings to whom God has not become a stranger. On the other hand the war offices, the cabinets and the chancelleries of their various governments are hurling masses of hate and defiance at each other, in their rage tearing to shreds the laws of nations and of God as well and visiting all sorts and manners of punishment upon their antagonists.

Now when we look at the first side—the side of the men in the field who are doing the fighting it is not surprising to know that hate and venom does not exist. This is shown by letters from the front every day. Read this one from a Jester written by a dying French officer to his friends in Paris:

"There are two other men lying near me, and I do not think there is much hope for them either. One is an officer of a Hessian regiment, and the other a private in the Chinese. They were struck down after me, and when I came to myself I found them hanging over me rendering first aid."

The Britisher was pouring water down my throat from his canteen while the German was endeavoring to staunch my wound with an antiseptic preparation sent out to them by their medical corps. The Highlander had one of his legs shattered, and the German had several pieces of shrapnel buried in his side.

"In spite of their own sufferings they were trying to help me, and when I was fully conscious again the German gave us a morphine injection and took one himself. His medical corps had also provided him with the injection and the needles together with printed instructions for its use."

"After the injection, feeling wonderfully at ease, we spoke of the lives we had lived before the war. We all spoke English, and we talked of the women we had left at home. Both

the German and the Highlander had only been married a year, and I wondered why we had fought one another at all. I looked at the Highlander, who was falling asleep, exhausted, and in spite of his drawn face and mud-stained uniform, he looked in the embodiment of freedom. Then I thought of the treachery of France, and all that France had done for liberty. Then I watched the German, who had ceased to speak. He had taken a prayer book from his knapsack and was trying to read a service for soldiers wounded in battle."

Just plain human beings, like the rest of us, not fiends and barbarians obsessed with hatred and fear of each other. Brothers, shunning each other's wounds, ministering to each other's needs, with a respectful and friendly feeling for each other, who talked in one language of the women they had left behind and prayed to the same God a prayer for soldiers wounded in battle.

"I wondered," writes the Frenchman, "and I suppose the others did, why we had fought one another at all."

They knew not why they were fighting. Nobody knew. The one verdict on which the captains and admirals and who men of all the nations agree is that they are fighting an unnecessary and wicked war. As to what caused it, what it is for, no one agrees with another. The leaders of each side heap passionate blame on the leaders of the other side and call on God to witness the purity of their own motives.

The stupidity of it all! A world plunged in blood, civilization staggering to its fall, and mankind and mankind disputing and splitting hairs concerning what it all about!

A couple of generations ago Turkey and Russia were at war. England and France leaped into the fray on Turkey's side, and the rivers of east Europe ran red with blood, to keep Russia from gaining Constantinople and an outlet to the Mediterranean. The safety of civilization demanded it. Today the same Russia is reaching for the same outlet to the same sea and her enemies then, her allies now, declare their sympathy with Russia's very proper purpose.

Why, then, was the Ottoman war fought? A couple of generations hence, we have on the slightest doubt, our grandchildren will ask the same question about the present war, with even greater bewilderment than we ourselves ask it now.

Meanwhile men are dying on the rededing snows, forgetting they are enemies, their laboring hearts touched by the universal impulse of a common brotherhood, and talk of the women they have left at home.

THAT DEPARTED SHIP BILLS.

With the failing of the great Thursday noon died the session of congress and with it died the ship bill which President Wilson had championed, and where he wanted \$10,000,000 of government money spent in the purchase of a fleet of ocean freighters, the cost of the cables of its failure is the fact that the masses as yet do not grasp the importance of the measure and therefore it failed of the popular support that it should have had. Had all of the people read the report sent out a short time ago by Secretary McAdoo, there would have been a vast difference in sentiment and support.

What it meant to the American producer is most important. It showed that owing to conditions created by the war in Europe, the freight rates for shipping a bushel of grain from an American port to any European port were elevated in six months as follows: From New York to Liverpool, from 4 cents in July, 1914, to 24 cents in January, 1915; from New York to Rotterdam, from 4 cents to 48 cents; from Baltimore to European ports, from 4 cents to 38 cents; from Philadelphia to European ports from 4 cents to 28 cents; from Norfolk to Liverpool, from 4 cents to 11 cents; from New Orleans to continental Europe, from 4 cents to 38 cents; from Galveston to Liverpool, from 7 to 17 cents.

Liverpool is the point at which the world's leading price for grain is fixed by competition. A paragraph from the secretary's report is as follows, exploding the theory that it is the foreign consumer who pays the exorbitant freight:

"Grain, cotton and other commodities are usually sold 'delivered' at the port of destination. When steamship companies raise the cost of delivery of grain from 4 cents to 48 cents per bushel, it makes a vast difference in the price the farmer receives for his product, and when ocean freight charges on cotton are raised from 11 cents to \$15 a bale, the price at which the farmer sells his cotton is materially reduced."

To show the burden which these exorbitant rates imposed upon American producers, Secretary McAdoo quoted figures disclosing that our total exports by sea for July, 1914, (before the war), were \$129,225,479 and the

ocean freight cost thereto was \$7,932,483, or 4.4 per cent. The total of such exports for December, 1914, were about \$225,000,000 and the ocean freight cost was \$20,747,539, or 13.4 per cent, an increase over July of 144 per cent.

If the same rates had prevailed in December as had previously prevailed in July, the cost of shipment of December ocean freight would have been \$12,722,500 instead of almost \$11,099,000. Twelve months of December export ocean transportation at the high rates prevailing in that month would entail an aggregate excess of shipping cost above normal rates of July preceding amounting to \$11,128,400, which the American producer would be required to pay above what shipment should have cost in that time. This is five times as much as the proposed expenditure in government ships.

Upon the December volume of both exports and imports, and at December rates, the shipping cost of Americans commerce would have reached the ponderous total of \$321,110,000, almost all paid to foreign steamship owners, or enough to seriously threaten our foreign trade balance.

The greatest increase in rates was on grain and cotton, productions of the American farmers. The increase in cotton was in some instances as high as 1,100 per cent. Grain and cotton constitute the bulk of American export trade and have the largest in Germany in throwing the balance of trade in favor of this country.

The opening of the boundaries will undoubtedly bring Russian wheat to the market, so that the situation henceforth will not be so tragic regarding ocean rates for that commodity, but it appears as if American cotton must keep on paying the outrageous tribute to the steamer companies, most of them foreigners. It was to protect not only the American producer, but the trade balance, that the president wanted the government to go into the ocean transportation business. It is a foolishness that no nation can even attempt otherwise to regulate.

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UNCLE SAWY WILL GET TIRED.

Some of the men in charge of Uncle Sawy's Colorado Colorado Iron & Fuel Co. make the claim that the organization was not formed for the purpose of a philanthropic institution but was instituted for the purpose of making profits. Now the board of directors announce that it has been a dismal failure as far as the profit making is concerned and this situation has come about through the inefficiency of its management. —The board in its report makes this statement:

"The direct cost of the strike has been \$1,145,000. The indirect cost, due to loss of business in the fuel department is estimated at \$700,000 to \$1,000,000, the total direct and indirect cost being approximately \$1,850,000.

A management that would bring about a loss of \$1,145,000 in the course of a couple of months certainly needs to be changed. That such a loss was unavoidable few will deny, for it was the result of adhering to worn-out ideas that have been abandoned by nearly all of the great corporations which like the Colorado Fuel & Iron Co., were organized to make profit on investments. The management forgot the divine aphorism that 'nothing stamped by the divine stamp is sent into the world to be trodden upon and degraded and imitated by its followers.' The great corporations in the United States that have adopted the spirit of that saying are the ones that are prospering and making profits on their investments. They do not lose \$1,145,000 by a strike. They do not try to 'degrade and imitate' their employees. They provide night schools, trained nurses and health departments. The Rockefeller plan has been that of the middle ages when the man who worked with his hands was considered little above the brute. Rockefeller may become tired of spending a million now and then trying to enforce his ideas and finally learn that it is all futile. The course of mankind is upward.

It is almost time for the army of Republican enthusiasts to get into the field and turn their guns on President Wilson, not because they want to, but party exigency demands that it shall be done.

The American people have no time for a war with Mexico or any other nation but now. What we want to do is to raise bread and pork, and cotton and wheat and corn.

Who will be United States marshal for the Western District of Missouri is almost as hard to answer as the old query, "Who stuck Billy Foster?"

The number of simultaneous games of chess played by a champion and the number of armchair experts turned by an aviator on a single flight keep growing.

The fact that a preacher in New York has turned politician is hardly enough news to pay to stop the press yet it is announced in the Associated Press.

J. Ham Lewis, who parts his quip where he does his whistlers, will give some fatherly advice to the legislature this month. It will not be needed.

With a state owning a railroad the question of passes for all state employees and members of the legislature would appear to be easily solved.

The prisoners in the Oregon penitentiary show that on Sunday morning

ships, in credit and in name, but inferior to Bonds in men and to Bonds in ships.

There is no doubt that an arrangement was made between those three powers to prevent bidding against each other in foreign purchases for foodstuffs and war supplies and that the future purchasing for the allied armies will be done by common agents. In other words, they have formed a combination in violation of the Sherman act. It is altogether likely that the public placement of the allies would jointly finance the cost of the war, was not the most important consideration arrived at. As the Sherman act is not in force over there, there is no power to interfere with their combination in restraint of trade. Perhaps they thought that a reduction in the cost of the war was a military necessity, and any means of accomplishing that and was allowable. It will no doubt enable them to get their supplies and war material at less cost than if they brought in a competitive market.

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Well now that Mayor Marshall will

soon have the opportunity to fire appointive city officers, where will the lightning strike first?

If all those York gobs which the allies have "silenced" in the Dardanelles never speak again the world will be better off.

There seems to be some trouble about adjoining the Missouri legislature. Wait till the \$5 a day rate fades—and then see.

The Fraternal Week Finance committee did not make good, but they certainly gave St. Joseph a good advertisement.

It is cheaper to live in Boston, Kansas City or New York than is suggested by the French Interference and baby show.

The Kansas fellows dedicated their state building at the Panama Exposition Thursday. As usual the spectators blew.

It is not out of place to remind the St. Joseph delegation that the present primary law is good enough for this section.

No one will consider Germany's reply worthy of note. He knows full well that he cannot whip the United States.

Now all of you jingoes who are interested in selling powder and shot, howl to chorus over the Frye incident, and

Nor is a statesman so interested as it used to be in the color of the tie Harry Truman happens to be wearing.

At last, it appears, Jim Willard has consented to go a good deal more than half way to meet Jack Johnson.

The country member at Jefferson City is decidedly opposed to going back for a session after supper.

Governor Johnson believes it appears in either government ownership or state ownership of railroads.

Well, that was certainly some election in Louisiana where there were 1,414 wet and 1,414 dry votes cast.

This second fire at the Bienville plant did not catch Thomas A. mapping, even though it was midnight.

Things would probably be better if the main fellow in Vera Cruz were Funston instead of Carranza.

St. Joseph was well represented at Jefferson City this week, as all of the as grandpas were here.

Don't howl about this snow. It will add two million dollars to Missouri scope this year.

But even a trans-Atlantic rate war cannot attract many Americans to the scene.

We are all satisfied to see the sun again after its ten days banishment.

Don't be scared—Wilson is at the helm of the ship of state.

The sun shown Thursday afternoon.

The fire marshal still is still dead.

The Boss Entitled to Talk.

Boss Parsons predicts a Republican victory in 1916. Having spent over \$1,000,000 to carry the Republican state of Pennsylvania for senator in the last election the Boss thinks he is entitled to do some talking.—Henry County Democrat.

What the Missouri Editors Are Saying

And He Is An Able One.

A new Daniel has sprung into the arena in Europe. His name is Fausto.—Worth County Times.

Was a Real Working Congress.

The old congress adjourned today and at present there is a general effort among the Republicans press to magnify its shortcomings. Despite the many meritorious measures that were stated for passage and failed to be considered, the fact remains that it has been one of the most progressive sessions, one in which passed more

laws of vital interest to the country than probably any of its predecessors. While the size of legislation, largely caused by politics, has been the virtue of good work accomplished, it is also numerous.—Albion Leader.

Possibly Their Critics Are Strong.

When some men claim to be "called of the Lord," we are constrained to wonder if the Lord did not make a good many mistakes.—Hannibal Democrat.

But Kansas Used the Loud Peal.

Attention is called to the record that Kansas gave \$175,000 to the Belgian relief fund while Missouri donated \$225,000. The latter is equivalent, however, by the fact that Kansas has made three times as much noise about her charity.—Lincoln Bulletin.

Cobb Should Drop His Politics.

Ivan Cobb says the war in Europe has made a sufficient of him. We expect there are a great many over there just as sorry as Cobb, and would not participate if that would enable them to stay at home, while the performance was going on.—Bentonville Advertiser.

Where Did the Fund Come From?

Of course the railroads are poor, because they say so, but the people of Missouri would like to know where they got all that money for telegrams and lobbyists and petitions and private cars that they used in their campaign for increased fares.—Kansas City Times.

It Will Take Hard Work.

If the detectives of New York have started out to make the Rockefellers pay for the